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Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00

CIAE-00 /016 W
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P 162137Z MAR 76
FM AMEMASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7759

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2134

E.O.11652:N/A
TAS: SREF, CVIS, CI:
SUBJ: REGUGEES AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS: PAROLE OF CHILEAN DETAINEES AND REFUEES.

REF: STATE 137514

1. THE EMBASSY CURRENTLY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION THE CASES OF VARIOUS FORMER SAILORS AND FORMER CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE CHILEAN NAVY WHO WERE DETAINED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES BEFORE THE COUP. ON FEBRUARY 5, 1975, THEY WERE ALL SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS AND ONE DAY IMPRISONMENT BY THE NAVAL JUDGE OF VALPARAISO FOR ALLEGED SEDITION AND MUTINTY. ACCORDING TO THOSE INTERVIEWED THE ARREST STEMMED FROM AN APRIL 1973 MEETING HELD BY THE MEN TO DISCUSS WORK CONDITIONS. THEY SAID THAT AFTER NAVAL INTELLIGENCE LEARNED OF THE MEETING THEY WERE ALL ARRESTED.

2. WHILE THE CASES HAVE BEEN HANDLED IN THE MILITARY COURTS AS MILITARY CRIMES, IT WOJLD APPEAR THAT THEY SHOULD BE TREATED AS POLITICAL IN NATURE. THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES, EVEN BEFORE THE COUP, WERE FEARFUL OF ANY ACTIVITY THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A LEFTIST ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE MILITARY AUTHORITY. SINCE THE COUP MANY MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND TRIED UNDER SIMILAR CHARGES OF SEDITION FOR HAVING FAILED TO SUPPORT THE COUP IN ITS PRE-SEPTEMBER 1973 TALKING STAGE. THE ARRESTS MADE PRIOR TO THE COUP APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MADE AS A KIND OF SECURITY MEASURE TO CONTROL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MILITARY WHO PRESENTED A
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SUPPOSED THREAT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COUP.

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3. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO
ACCEPT THEIR APPLICATIONS, AS WE BELIEVE THEY FALL WITHIN
THE GUIDELINES OF THE PAROLE PROGRAM.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, PAROLE, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA02134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760099-0639
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760356/aaaabxcs.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 137514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01 Apr 2004 by morefirh, INA>; RELEASED <29 SEP 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <09 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGUGEES AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS: PAROLE OF CHILEAN DETAINEES AND REFUEES.
TAGS: SREF, CVIS, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006